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Statistical Illustrations of the Past and Present state of Lancashire, and more particularly of the hundred of Salford. By HENRY ASHWORTH, Esq., of Turton, near Bolton.

[Read before the Statistical Section of the British Association, at Manchester, 27th June, 1842.]

HISTORY informs, that after the battle of Hastings, now nearly 800 years ago, William the Conqueror proceeded northwards to extirpate the last relic of Saxon independence. With ruthless barbarity he laid waste the whole tract of country lying between York and Durham, and in the depth of winter prepared to lead his army to his fortress at Chester. Passing the bordering hills of Yorkshire, his way was over the southern division of Lancashire, which he found a mere waste, uncultivated, without roads, and almost uninhabited; so that by reason of destructive marshes, impenetrable woods, perilous rivers, and overflowing valleys, his soldiers were grievously harassed; some of them murmured aloud at the hardships to which their chief was exposing them, and threatened to return to the Continent. The king was obliged to cheer his men by advancing before them on foot, and often had to assist with his own hands to extricate them from their dangers.

Passing from this period to the reign of Elizabeth, the records of this comparatively recent age throw but faint light upon those incidents which illustrate the condition of this portion of the country, or the aspect of the people. In 1607 we have Camden's Survey.

After having visited the towns of Hull, Beverley, and other places on the eastern coast, he speaks with a sort of apprehension of his prospect of entering Lancashire,—describing it as that part of the kingdom lying “beyond the mountains towards the western ocean,” and regarding it not only as a foreign, but as hardly a civilized country.

“And first,” he says, “of the people of Lancashire, whom I approach with a kind of dread; may it forbode no ill. . . . However, that I may not seem wanting to this county, I will run the hazard of the attempt; hoping that the divine assistance which hath favoured me in the rest, will not fail me in this.”

Proceeding accordingly to his survey, he describes Rochdale as “a market town of no small resort;” Bury as another, “no way inferior to it; and Manchester, as “surpassing all the towns hereabouts in building, populousness, woollen-manufacture, market-place, and church.” Liverpool is merely noticed under the name of “Litherpoole”—commonly shortened into “Lirpool,” as “the most convenient and usual place for setting sail into Ireland.” Preston is called “a large town, handsome and populous for these parts;” Blackburn is merely mentioned; but Ashton, Bolton, Oldham, Salford, and many other places, now containing each from 10 to upwards of 50,000 inhabitants, are not even noticed, existing as they did, if at all, merely as obscure and insignificant villages.

It has been supposed that the inhabitants of the southern and eastern parts of the county are principally descended from the Frisians, a section of the Saxons of North Germany; and they have been described as men of orderly, but of resolute and even rude habits, generally cautious and possessed of extraordinary energy. These parts of the county were for many centuries, from the difficulty of their access, but little frequented by the inhabitants of other districts. Hence the Lancastrians have be-

come but little influenced by intermarriages, and but slightly affected in their manners by the changes which in other places have resulted from the Norman conquest.

They retain, as they have always done, much of that sturdiness of temper which belonged to their Saxon ancestors, and which is often taken as an indication of rudeness, whilst in reality it is only an awkward manner of conveying to others the high sense they entertain of their own independence.

In 1524, Hugh Oldham, Bishop of Exeter, and founder of the Free Grammar School of Manchester, described the children of Lancashire as possessed of "*pregnant wits*," but as having been brought up "*rudely* and *idly*;" in this case it will be obvious, that the term "*idly*" was used to imply *loosely*. In more recent times, the Lancastrians have been spoken of as distinguished for the quiet dignity of their minds, roused only by "*great objects*"—above "*petty bustle*"—having a "*contempt for shew*"—an "*abhorrence of intrigue*"; and their deportment characterised by "*plainness and downrightness*," accompanied with unostentatious good-nature. The possession of these qualities has no doubt contributed to render the Lancastrians of more modern days remarkable for a spirit of enterprise, and an energy of application perhaps unparalleled. The introduction of the cotton manufacture about 70 years ago, afforded them an ample field for the developement and successful application of those powers and qualities of mind, which they appear to have inherited from their Saxon ancestors.

In this otherwise unpromising locality, manufactures and commerce have found a genial soil. In the hands of this race of people, the sciences of mechanics and chemistry have been applied to manufacturing industry, with a practical intelligence previously unknown. Steam-power has been introduced, and successfully applied to all the varied forms of mechanical invention. Those rivers, remembered for the obstructions they *once* presented to military aggression, are *now* directed to the propelling of machinery; they are lending their aid in the bleaching, dyeing, and printing of our fabrics, and assist in many other manufacturing and mercantile services. They are crossed with bridges almost out of number, bearing roads and railroads through that country of "*destructive morasses and impenetrable woods*" which nearly thwarted regal enterprise.

Liverpool, two centuries ago a small fishing station, and "*the most convenient and usual place for setting sail into Ireland*," has become a mercantile port, unequalled in any other country. All the towns previously existing have been greatly increased in magnitude and wealth, and other towns have come into existence, rivalling those of more ancient date. Many populous villages have also arisen, and the whole country has become thronged with myriads of industrious people,—more numerous indeed than the population of any other English county.

In drawing attention to the past and present state of Lancashire, it will be difficult, or perhaps impossible, to describe all the changes which have been effected. Those points of comparison will appear the most striking, which have reference to the increased *population* and *wealth* of the county. These are presented in the following parallel columns. The population returns are those of 1801, the earliest we possess, compared with those of 1841. The comparisons relating to the value of

property are drawn from the Parliamentary Return of the assessment for the land-tax, in 1692, and the county assessment of 1841.

The land-tax returns have been selected, as the only authenticated records of the value of property in the county, having an earlier date than 1815; and they may be taken as a fair approximation to the value of property at that period, from having been ascertained for the adoption of a mode of taxing by rate, instead of scutages. The sums which represent the gross annual value of places in 1692 have been ascertained by adding together the sums of land-tax, *redeemed* and *unredeemed*, charged severally upon each of them; and as this tax was a charge of *four shillings* in the pound, its amount being *multiplied by five*, gives the full annual value at that period.

The following may be adduced as an instance of the mode in which the calculations have been worked out. *Example:*—

	Land tax		Land tax		Total.	Full Ann. Val.		Full Ann. Val.		Per Cent. Rate of Increase.
	redeemed.	un-redeemed.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.		£.	£.	£.	£.	
Great Bolton .	18	9	3	15	6	9 = 33	16	0 × 5 = 169	93,916	54 388

By way of enlarged illustration, the following will show the past and present state of the several hundreds or divisions of the county.

COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

Hundreds.	Population in 1801.	Population in 1841.	Annual Value in 1692.	Annual Value in 1841.	Rate of Increase Per Cent. on Value.
Lonsdale . .	No. 42,842	No. 61,507	£. 8,500	£. 301,987	3,500
Amounderness .	39,618	93,033	10,288	364,454	3,500
Leyland . .	30,461	79,816	5,774	199,868	3,500
Blackburn . .	88,503	193,832	11,131	497,541	4,400
Salford . . .	281,413	764,654	25,907	2,703,292	10,460
West Derby .	189,728	474,212	35,642	2,124,925	5,900
Total . . .	672,565	1,667,054	97,242	6,192,067	6,300

The borough of Lancaster has increased in the number of its inhabitants, since the commencement of the present century, from 9,030 to 13,531; that of Wigan, from 10,989 to 25,517; the town of Manchester, with Salford, from 84,020 to 296,183; and that of Liverpool, with Toxteth Park, from 79,722 to 264,298.

From the above it appears, that, in the course of 150 years the property of the county, as a whole, has been advanced 6,300 per cent. That the three hundreds which are chiefly agricultural have been advanced 3,500 per cent., whilst those which are more engaged in manufactures and commerce have averaged an advance of 7,000 per cent., or twice as much.

The following table shows the population in 1801 and 1841, of the several towns and townships comprised in the hundred of Salford; also the annual value of the same places at the period of assessment for the land-tax in 1692, contrasted with their value as ascertained for the county assessment in 1841, so as to show the per centage of increase in each of them.

HUNDRED OF SALFORD.

Places.	Population.		Property.			Rate of Increase per Cent.
	In 1801.	In 1841.	Annual Value in 1692.	Annual Value in 1841.		
Ardwick	1,762	9,906	175 0 0	46,471	26,500	
Blakely	2,361	3,202	364 19 7	7,673	2,100	
Bradford	94	910	52 15 0	3,122	5,800	
Broughton	866	3,793	230 6 8	33,956	14,700	
Burnage	383	489	80 15 5	2,413	3,000	
Cheetham	750	6,080	215 18 4	38,983	18,600	
Chorlton-with-Hardy	513	632	236 15 0	4,579	1,900	
Chorlton-on-Medlock	675	28,322	256 4 2	137,651	53,000	
Crumpsall	452	2,745	95 6 3	13,237	13,000	
Didsbury	619	1,248	245 9 2	9,662	3,900	
Failsworth	2,622	3,874	200 0 0	8,514	4,250	
Gorton	1,127	2,422	435 11 3	9,340	2,000	
Harpurhey	118	438	32 5 10	1,770	5,600	
Heaton Norris	3,768	14,626	281 15 0	45,175	16,000	
Hulme	1,677	26,819	152 10 5	75,733	49,800	
Levenshulme	628	1,231	154 0 0	6,056	3,900	
Manchester	70,409	163,667	4,025 0 0	721,743	17,900	
Moss Side	150	436	61 9 2	4,958	8,100	
Moston	618	671	196 2 11	5,743	2,900	
Newton	1,295	6,127	252 7 6	21,953	8,700	
Openshaw	339	2,280	107 10 10	6,520	6,100	
Reddish	456	1,187	343 0 0	6,503	1,900	
Rusholme	726	1,868	146 13 4	15,281	10,400	
Salford	13,611	51,522	809 19 7	162,807	20,100	
Stretford	1,477	3,515	384 4 7	21,677	5,600	
Withington	743	1,271	311 5 5	9,565	3,000	
ECCLES PARISH:						
Barton-on-Irwell	6,197	10,855	827 7 11	48,863	5,900	
Clifton	812	1,370	190 5 0	6,462	3,400	
Pendlebury	437	2,196	175 0 0	11,008	6,200	
Pendleton	3,611	10,905	363 12 11	48,150	13,300	
Worsley	5,062	8,340	651 9 2	19,938	3,000	
FLIXTON PARISH:						
Flixton	1,093	1,459	290 12 11	5,412	1,800	
Urmston	532	770	204 9 7	4,174	2,000	
PRESTWICH-CUM-OLDHAM PARISH:						
Alkrington	319	350	76 11 8	2,082	2,700	
Great Heaton	267	157	82 16 8	2,879	3,500	
Little Heaton	494	808	59 12 6	1,994	3,400	
Pilkington	5,786	11,126	651 6 8	32,675	5,000	
Prestwich	1,811	3,179	202 0 0	11,565	5,700	
Tonge	711	2,423	45 4 7	4,605	10,300	
BOLTON-LE-MOORS PARISH:						
Anglezarke	162	164	41 19 7	1,114	2,700	
Blackrod	1,623	2,613	184 15 5	7,377	4,000	
Great Bolton	12,549	33,609	169 0 0	93,916	54,388	
Little Bolton	4,867	16,144	132 19 7	47,111	35,690	
Bradshaw	380	827	80 12 6	2,843	3,550	
Breightmet	734	1,309	92 15 0	5,068	5,500	
Edgeworth	1,003	1,697	31 4 2	4,116	13,200	

HUNDRED OF SALFORD.—*continued.*

Places.	Population		Property.		
	In 1801.	In 1841.	Annual Value in 1692.	Annual Value in 1841.	Rate of Increase per Cent.
	No.	No.	£. s. d.	£.	
BOLTON-LE-MOORS PARISH:					
Entwistle	447	555	62 9 7	1,977	3,100
Harwood	1,281	1,996	107 6 3	3,907	3,650
Darcy Lever	589	1,701	62 17 11	6,289	10,100
Little Lever	1,276	2,580	112 16 3	10,058	8,900
Longworth	249	149	55 2 11	1,038	1,800
Lostock	509	625	103 4 7	2,244	2,100
Quarilon	238	370	37 7 6	1,724	4,650
Rivington	519	471	111 12 11	2,336	2,100
Sharples	873	2,879	92 9 2	10,061	10,900
Tonge-with-Haulgh	1,158	2,627	107 0 0	9,396	8,800
Turton	1,369	3,577	165 7 6	14,323	8,600
BURY PARISH:					
Bury	7,072	20,604	220 14 7	52,882	24,000
Elton	2,080	3,169	214 15 0	14,36	6,700
Heap and Heywood	4,283	14,763	265 14 7	41,652	15,700
Tottington Higher End	1,246	{ 9,882	234 17 1	10,613	4,500
Tottington Lower End	4,314		377 7 1	18,382	4,800
Walmersley and Shut-tleworth	2,166	4,911	316 17 6	11,271	3,500
DEAN PARISH:					
Farnworth	1,439	4,829	141 10 0	17,971	12,700
Hallowell	1,385	3,242	120 12 11	13,230	10,025
Heaton	677	713	120 13 4	2,790	2,350
Horwich	1,565	3,774	120 12 11	12,986	10,800
Little Hulton	1,498	3,052	101 2 14	10,017	9,900
Middle Hulton	819	902	130 15 5	4,370	3,300
Over Hulton	619	445	120 10 5	4,669	3,800
Kearsley	1,082	3,435	56 4 7	9,035	16,100
Rumworth	700	1,298	85 0 0	3,789	4,400
Westhoughton	3,059	4,527	346 11 3	10,978	3,100
MIDDLETON PARISH:					
Ainsworth	1,240	1,608	114 10 0	5,093	4,800
Great Leave	398	657	76 5 0	5,273	6,900
Ratcliffe	2,497	5,058	208 14 2	18,752	9,000
Ashworth	295	325	87 5 0	1,428	1,600
Bircle-cum-Bamford	753	1,722	105 5 0	5,278	5,000
Hopwood	948	1,518	153 0 0	7,300	4,700
Middleton	3,265	7,731	196 19 7	16,197	8,200
Pilsworth	418	414	121 14 7	3,693	3,000
Thornham	674	1,442	162 14 7	5,733	3,500
WIGAN PARISH:					
Aspull	1,253	2,772	110 1 3	9,044	8,200
PRESTWICH-CUM-OLDHAM PARISH:					
Chadderton	3,452	5,405	276 14 2	13,716	4,900
Crompton	3,482	6,722	293 3 4	15,300	5,200
Oldham	12,024	42,593	287 9 7	107,500	37,400
Royton	2,719	5,728	91 14 7	16,200	17,800

HUNDRED OF SALFORD—*continued.*

Places.	Population.		Property.			Rate of Increase per Cent.
	In 1801.	In 1841.	Annual Value in 1692.	Annual Value in 1841.		
	No.	No.	£. s. d.	£.		
ROCHDALE PARISH :						
Blatchinworth and Hal- derbrook }	1,647	4,466	229 8 2	12,069	5,200	
Butterworth }	3,930	5,088	674 15 10	20,112	2,900	
Castleton }	5,460	14,270	526 10 0	48,466	9,200	
Spotland }	9,031	18,469	524 9 7	58,796	11,200	
Todmorden and Wals- den }	2,515	7,297	251 17 6	17,738	7,000	
Wardleworth }	3,298	11,400	300 3 9	39,456	13,100	
Wuerdale and Wardle .	3,220	6,870	359 14 7	17,645	4,900	
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE PARISH :						
Ashton-under-Lyne .	19,052	46,343	1,345 0 0	143,803	10,600	
MANCHESTER PARISH :						
Denton	1,362	3,349	378 0 0	7,890	2,000	
Droylesden	1,552	4,930	329 17 1	12,900	3,900	
Haughton	1,139	3,319	190 5 0	7,610	4,000	
Beswick (extra-paro- chial)}	6	345	26 0 0	1,474	5,600	

These statements show, that throughout the county, and more especially within the hundred of Salford, there has been a remarkable extent of prosperous increase; and it will be observed, that some of the places have proceeded with far greater rapidity than others, out of which the following may be adduced amongst those wherein the advanced value, has exceeded 10,000 per cent.

Places.	Annual Value in 1692.	Annual Value in 1841.	Rate of Increase per Cent.
Places surrounding Manchester:	£. s. d.	£.	
Chorlton-upon-Medlock . . .	256 4 2	137,651	53,000
Hulme	152 10 5	75,733	49,800
Ardwick	175 0 0	46,471	26,500
Salford	809 19 7	162,847	20,100
Cheetham	215 18 4	38,983	18,100
Manchester	4,025 0 0	721,743	17,900
Heaton Norris	281 15 0	45,175	16,000
Broughton	230 6 8	33,956	14,700
Pendleton	363 12 11	48,150	13,200
Crumpsall	95 6 3	13,237	13,000
Rusholme	146 13 4	15,281	10,400
Places in other Parts of Salford Hundred :			
Great Bolton	169 0 0	93,916	54,388
Little Bolton	132 19 7	47,111	35,690
Bury	220 14 7	52,882	24,000
Oldham	287 9 7	107,500	37,400

Places.	Annual Value in 1692.	Annual Value in 1841.	Rate of Increase per Cent.
Places in other Parts of Salford Hundred—continued:	£. s. d.	£.	
Royton	91 14 7	16,200	17,800
Heap and Heywood	265 14 7	41,652	15,700
Kearsley	56 4 7	9,035	16,100
Farnworth	141 10 0	17,071	12,700
Edgeworth	31 4 2	4,116	13,200
Wardleworth	300 3 9	39,456	13,100
Spotland	524 9 7	58,796	11,200
Ashton-under-Lyne	1,345 0 0	143,803	10,600

The following are nearly an equal number of other places, some of which lie contiguous to the foregoing, and in which the progress has been much more slow, not exceeding 3,000 per cent.

Places.	Annual Value in 1692.	Annual Value in 1841.	Rate of Increase per Cent.
Places surrounding Manchester:	£. s. d.	£.	
Chorlton-cum-Hardy	236 15 0	4,579	1,900
Blakeley	364 19 7	7,673	2,100
Gorton	435 11 3	9,340	2,100
Moston	196 2 11	6,743	2,900
Burnage	80 15 5	2,413	3,000
Withington	311 5 5	9,565	3,000
Reddish	343 0 0	6,503	1,900
Flixton	290 12 11	5,412	1,800
Urmston	204 9 7	4,174	2,000
Alkrington	76 11 8	2,082	2,700
Denton	378 0 0	7,890	2,000
Places in other Parts of Salford Hundred:	£. s. d.	£.	
Butterworth	674 15 10	20,112	2,900
Ashworth	87 5 0	1,428	1,600
Longworth	55 2 11	1,038	1,800
Rivington	111 12 11	2,336	2,100
Anglezarke	41 19 7	1,114	2,700
Heaton	120 13 4	2,790	2,350
Lostock	103 4 7	2,244	2,100

Some explanation appears necessary to account for the occurrence of these marked disparities in the progressive prosperity of places bordering so closely upon each other, and possessing nearly the same natural advantages. The only solution which can be given is, that in those places where the genius, enterprise, and industry of the people have been developed, and have had to encounter no sort of local hindrances, the prosperity of the district has proceeded with a steady onward course; whilst in those other places, which have not progressed with equal rapidity, there must have been an absence of native enterprise; a want of mines, roads, or canals; or a disinclination somewhere, perhaps on the part of the owners, to allow the natural advantages of the country to be turned to the best account.

It has followed, nevertheless, that advantages have accrued to those localities where manufacturing industry has met with little or no en-

couragement, but such advantages have chiefly been derived to the land, from the improved market for the productions of the soil, furnished by an adjacent population. In this way manufacturing industry has not only raised the prosperity of the places in which it was developed, but has extended its benefits to all the farming localities of the neighbourhood; raising the rental of *mere land*, in some cases 1,500, and in others as much as 3,000 per cent.

One, amongst the many instances of extraordinary increase in the value of property, has occurred in Chorlton-upon-Medlock, adjacent to Manchester. The Chorlton Hall estate, extending over most of the township, was sold in the year 1590, as Dr. Aikin relates, by Edmund Trafford, Esq., to Ralph Sorocold, for the sum of 320*l.* In 1644 it was sold to Thomas Minshull, apothecary, for 300*l.* The same estate was sold in the year 1794, or 20 years after the introduction of the cotton manufacture, to Messrs. Cooper, Marslands, and Duckworth, for 42,914*l.*

	£.
In 1815 the annual value of that township was	19,484
In 1829 it was	66,645
In 1841 ,	137,651

Its annual value at the period of the land-tax was 256*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, and last year, by the county assessment, it was, as before stated, 137,651*l.*; the advance being upwards of 53,000 per cent. Taking the county assessment, and computing the property to be worth 25 years' purchase, its value in less than two centuries, will have been increased from 300*l.* to upwards of 3,000,000*l.*

The case of Westhoughton, near Bolton, presents a feature somewhat remarkable in the history of the cotton manufacture. In the year 1812, the first, or one of the first, power-loom factories ever established, was erected in that township. The outrages of the Luddites, of Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire, occurring at that period, rendered it an unpropitious time for the introduction of machinery. Outrage was begun in the neighbourhood, and ended in the destruction of the mill by incendiary violence. The consequences of this rash act were not such as infatuated ignorance had led the people to anticipate; namely, the obliteration of the invention of the power-loom. On the contrary, it merely took its flight from persecution, and located itself in the heretofore almost desolate neighbourhood of Staly Bridge, upon the confines of four counties, a place almost out of observation before the introduction of the cotton manufacture. Here it has been allowed to remain in quietude, diffusing prosperity on every hand.

The records of the population, and the value of the property in that neighbourhood are not very easily accessible, because the places are attached to different counties. Some idea, however, of the general prosperity of the district may be derived from the following accounts published in Edwin Butterworth's "Statistics of Lancashire." In 1814 there were in Staly Bridge 12 cotton manufacturing establishments, chiefly upon a small scale; and in 1841 there were 32 establishments, mostly upon a large scale, employing from 9,000 to 10,000 work-people, and having at work 536,000 spindles and 5,000 power-looms.

The accounts which relate to one of the parishes, that of Ashton-under-Lyne, the only one comprised within that district to whose

accounts we have access, show that the annual value of Ashton parish has advanced, since 1815, from 33,548*l.* to 143,803*l.*

We may now return, perhaps instructively, to the case of Westhoughton, and inquire how it has fared with that township, since the expulsion of the power-loom. The people have adhered principally to their former employment of hand-loom weaving, a branch of trade which has every year continued to decline. The population in 1811 was 3,810 ; in 1821, 4,211 ; in 1831, 4,500 ; and in 1841, 4,527. The value of the township for the county assessment in 1815 was 7,377*l.* ; in 1829, 9,564*l.* ; and in 1841, 10,978*l.* The locality of Westhoughton possesses an excellent coal-field, and an industrious population ; and this slow progress, if progress it can be called, must therefore be attributed to the departure of manufacturing enterprise. The coal-field has recently, however, been more extensively opened, so as to add to the value of the rateable property, and increase the range of employment for the people. It may, however, be deserving of remark, how much more rapidly the prosperity of the neighbourhood would have advanced had manufactures been promoted, affording employment to the people, and consuming their coals on the spot, rather than having them raised, as they now are, to be consumed in distant places, or sent abroad. Manufacturing enterprise has not again been attracted thither ; the destitution of the people has continued gradually to augment ; and at the present time that place is the poorest of the 25 townships composing the Bolton Union ; nearly one-fourth of its population are paupers ;* and the reduced state of the farmers may be estimated from the fact, that very many of them cannot pay their rents in full, that some of them pay instalments as low as 5*s.* at once, in liquidation of their poor rates, and that others have had their cattle sold to meet the demands of the collector.

Authenticated details of the material progress of particular districts, are not easily found. It will, therefore, be interesting to adduce the following particulars, relating to the Forest or Ancient Chase of Rossendale, containing an area of 24 square miles, as a remarkable instance of progressive improvement. In the early part of the 16th century, the inhabitants consisted of 80 souls, residing in booths. It is stated in a petition of the inhabitants to Henry VII. and VIII., that 44 years before, the forest was replenished only or chiefly with foresters, or keepers of the deer ; and that if the deer were entirely taken away, the forest was likely to come to some good purpose, and that the commonwealth might be increased thereby.

The forest having been disforested, the lands became apportioned, demised, and let for terms of years, or by copy of court roll. The petitioners proceed to state, so that "Whereas before that time, there was nothing else but deer, and other savage and wild beasts, there is since, by industry of the inhabitants, grown to be very fertile ground, well replenished with people." And further, that "the Castle church of Clitheroe (being their parish church) is distant 12 miles from the said forest, and the wais very foul, painful, hillous, and perilous, and the country in the winter season so extremely and vehemently cold that infants borne to the church to be christened are in great peril of their lives ; and that the aged and impotent people, and the women also, are

* The population is 4,527 ; and the paupers are 995 ; 49 in-doors ; and 946 out.

not able to travel so far to hear the word of God; and that the dead corpses are at such times like to lie there and remain unburied for lack of carriage, till great annoyance doth grow thereby."

The premises being considered, the inhabitants were allowed to erect Goodshaw Chapel, at their own cost, as a chapel of ease. The forest lands were apportioned into 19 booths, or vaccaries, and the annual value, or "advanced rent," settled upon them by Royal or Parliamentary Commission, and confirmed by James I., amounted to 122*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*

Upon the introduction of the woollen manufacture into the north of England, the foresters of Rossendale did not long continue to expend the whole of their energies upon the cultivation of a sterile soil; they entered with avidity into this branch of industry, and have pursued it for a very long period, with a remarkable degree of success.

About 45 years ago, the cotton manufacture was first introduced, and now promises, in its extent, to surpass the woollen trade; so that the forest is now possessed of both these sources of employment upon a very large scale.

The people have multiplied from the number of 80 souls, to upwards of 21,000. They have usually enjoyed an abundance of regular and well-paid employment; the scale of their comforts has gradually improved, and the numbers of their schools and places of worship may be taken as evidence that their intelligence, their religious, moral, and social standing have steadily advanced. The manufacturers and merchants of Rossendale have ever been distinguished for enterprise and ability, and their intercourse may be said to have extended to every mercantile country in the world.

On every hand the sides of the hills are adorned with the commodious and substantial dwellings of the master manufacturers, manifesting wealth and comfort. An amazing increase has taken place in the value of property. Land used exclusively for farming purposes, commands upwards of ten times the rental of a century ago; and farms formerly tenanted by persons now living, are let by their present possessors for seven or eight times the sums which themselves once paid. In the populous parts, building land is rented at 6*d.* and 6*½d.* per square yard, being 12*l.* to 13*l.* per acre; or a larger sum than was paid for the whole forest of 15,300 acres in the reign of James I.

By the last year's survey for the county assessment, the annual rental of the forest is 50,035*l.*, or an increase of 41,000 per cent. upon the Parliamentary survey before alluded to; bearing out the prediction of the petitioners, that the "removal of the deer would come to good purpose, and the commonwealth be increased thereby."

Next to the hundred of Salford, in wealth and importance, we find that the hundred of West Derby, in which Liverpool is situated, has derived the largest amount of advantage from the introduction of manufactures, although itself but slightly engaged in them. At the time of the land-tax assessment, it was put down at 35,642*l.* At the present time, by the county assessment, it stands at 2,124,925*l.*, being an advance at the rate of 5,900 per cent.

Some idea may be formed of the rapid advance of the borough of Liverpool, from a comparison of the state of the Lancashire boroughs 150 years ago, by which we find that it was then put down for the land-tax, at a smaller sum than the borough of Wigan:—

	£.	s.	d.
Wigan being charged . . .	205	3	8
Liverpool	168	13	10
Preston	135	2	2
Lancaster	67	15	3

Regarding the state of population, we have no means of estimating its progressive increase after the introduction of the cotton manufacture, and prior to the census of 1801. At the period of this census, the population of the county was 672,565; by the census of 1841, it was found to be 1,667,064.

A curious subject of inquiry offers itself in endeavours to ascertain the proportion of our present population which has resorted to Lancashire from other districts, attracted by an improved market for their labour. Some proximate estimate of this for the last 40 years may be arrived at, by adding to the census of 1801 a rate of 14 per cent. increase upon every 10 years, being about the average rate of increase in other parts of the kingdom. This ratio of increase would bring the population in 1841, to the sum of 1,135,934; while the real amount of population, as shown by the census of 1841, is 1,667,064. If we deduct from these, what would have been the supposed population under the average increase, 1,135,934, we have a population amounting to 531,130, whose presence is the result of immigration from other districts, in the course of the last 40 years.

It will have been remarked, that there has been an immense increase of population in all the large towns and busy manufacturing places, whilst in other adjoining townships the increase has been extremely slight, and in a few cases there has been an absolute decrease.

It has been shown, however, that the landed property of the county (and it might be said of the whole kingdom) has partaken largely of the advantages arising from the introduction of manufactures. That the lands even of the remotest districts have become largely increased in value. That within the hundred of Salford we do not observe that in any case there has been an increase of less than 1,500 per cent., whilst in those places where manufactures have been established, the increase has been at almost every rate from 5,000 to nearly 55,000 per cent. The advantages derived from this vast increase of wealth have principally fallen into the hands of those by whose enterprise and industry the interests of our manufacturing power have mainly been directed. There are, however, a very large amount of substantial advantages which have accrued to the owners of the soil. Many of the ancient family estates are enjoying beneficial advantages resulting from these changes, which have been estimated in various amounts, from below 10,000*l.* to upwards of 30,000*l.* a-year.

It may become matter of interest, to inquire, and to consider, by whose instrumentality this vast system of manufactures has been reared. It has *not* been the work of the *wealthy*, whether natives or foreigners. For it is a well known fact, which has grown into a proverb in Manchester, that "if a stranger brings a fortune to Manchester, and embarks it in trade, he loses it; but if he brings talent and industry, he makes a fortune." It will not be supposed to have originated with the landed proprietary of the country, who have ever peacefully enjoyed the accumulating revenues of their estates. Speaking of them as a class, Dr.

Whitaker, in his "History of Whalley," (1800), describes them, as "fond of married life,"—"possessed of little curiosity or ambition,"—"residing much at home,"—"pursuing domestic amusements which were more gross than costly,"—"that he had met with only one literary character, who was possessed of the family estate."

Following these disclosures, the fact becomes more and more obvious, that this vast accumulation of wealth and national advantage has come from the well-directed industry of the common mass of that peculiar people whose lineage we have traced with so much interest. A people possessing little or no outward property, but being richly endowed with those valuable qualities, persevering industry, intelligence, and enterprise, and of whose dealings it is said, that they were conducted with "*plainness and downrightness.*" In contemplating, as we cannot fail to do, with great astonishment, the amazing combination of mind and physical power which has thus elaborated a series of undertakings of such marvellous extent and national advantage, and that too in a country of such sterile and chaotic aspect, we are ready to pardon the delusions of eastern travellers, in attributing the wonderful temples of Palmyra to beings of a superior order.

Some short period of time, perhaps now a very brief one, will determine, whether our manufacturing industry shall continue to exalt the British name, or whether it shall speedily depart our coasts. Whether that noble spirit of our people, so deservedly admired, shall at length be broken down and yield itself to pauperism, or whether it is still possessed of elasticity to overcome the crisis. Already have this people left on record, matter which will long and pleasurable interest the *historian*. But what must be our feelings if we are to believe that the destinies of such a people are henceforth to be bent towards destruction; and their memory be left only "to point a moral, or adorn a tale."

On the Origin, Custody, and Value of Parish Registers, with an Abstract of the Registers of the Collegiate Church of Manchester.

By the Rev. RICHARD PARKINSON, B.D., Canon.

[*Read before the Statistical Section of the British Association, on Thursday, June 24, 1842.*]

I HAVE thought it would not be uninteresting to this Association to receive a brief statement of the contents of the parish registers of the collegiate church of Manchester, both as being connected with the place where the meeting is now held, and as being probably the largest, and, with some exceptions, perhaps the most perfect of all parish registers now in existence, the total number of baptisms, marriages, and burials there recorded being 554,017.

The first order for the keeping of such registers which we find on record, is an injunction issued in the 30th year of Henry VIII. by Cromwell, the King's Vicar-General, which ordained that "in all churches a register should be kept of every wedding, christening, and buriall within the same parish, for ever."* This injunction, which was issued in the year 1538, was extensively complied with, and I have seen many parish registers bearing date from that year. The next and more explicit order

* Baker's Chronicle, p. 424.